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Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 085070
R 111534Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261
US MISSION GENEVA 615
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
US MISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASY WARSAW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 3 LINE 4

PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ELAB, XGILO, SW
SUBJ: EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 6334; BONN 18411

1. SUMMARY: SWEDES PREPARING LARGE AND HIGH-POWERED DELEGATIONS FOR EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, JANUARY 19. ALTHOUGH DISMAYED BY LACK OF COHESION AMONG WESTERN UNIONS, FEEL THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD BUT THAT GREAT CARE EXERCISED TO HOLD IT WITHIN DESIRABLE (FROM THE WEST POINT OF VIEW) BOUNDS. ASSUME THAT THE EAST HAS ALREADY RECEIVED LARGE MEASURE OF SATISFACTION. END OF SUMMARY.

2. WITH EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IMMINENT, SWEDISH UNIONS STILL UNCLEAR AS TO TACTICS AND OBJECTIVES WESTERN UNIONS SHOULD PURSUE AT JANUARY 19 MEETING. CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH LO AND TCO REPS REVEAL CONCERN AT CONTINUED DISARRAY AND ABSENCE OF COMMON WESTERN FRONT RE EITHER SUBSTANCE OR TACTICS. ASSUME THAT NO SUCH PROBLEM PLAGUES EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES. MAIN HOPE FOR WEST IS THAT HOLDING OF CONFERENCE WILL FORCE WESTERN UNIONS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH NECESSITY FOR EVOLVING COMMON POSITIONS IN DEALING WITH EAST BOLC UNIONS. SWEDES, HOWEVER, ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THIS.

3. SWEDES CONCEDE THAT MERE HOLDING OF CONFERENCE IS SUCCESS FOR SOVIETS, THAT PRECEDENT THEREBY ESTABLISHED WILL BE CITED IN PUSH BY SOVIETS FOR INCREASED INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION FOR A THROUGH EXPANDED BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONTACTS OF SOVIETS CHOOSING, INCLUDING FULL-BLOWN ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, AND THAT CONFERENCE PERSONAL SUCCES FOR AUCCTU CHIEF ALEXANDER SHELEPIN WHO, THEY BELIEVE, IS UNDER FIRM
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ORDERS TO SECURELY TIE TRADE UNION TAIL TO EAST-WEST DETENTE KITE.

4. WHILE ABSENCE OF AGENDA OR AGREED DISCUSSION TOPICS UNDERLINES INFORMAL NATURE OF MEETING, SWEDES AWARE THAT PLAT ORM THEN CAN BE USED FOR VARIETY OF PURPOSES, NOT AL DESIRABLE. HOPE TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS LIMITED TO "NEUTRAL" TOPICS SUCH AS WORKING ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY, ETC.

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SWEDES WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE G. MUHR, FRG WORKER
REPESENTATIVE ON ILO GOVERNING BODY, CHOSEN CHAIRMAN OF
JANUARY 19 CONFERENCE. THEY BELIEVE MUHR INTERESTED IN
DEFINING AIMS OF MEETING ACCORDING TO LEAST COMMON
DENOMINATOR SUCH AS "THE OBJECTIVES IN EUROPE
OF THE ILO DURING THE NEXT DECADE," ETC. SWEDES BELIEVE
IT IMPORTANT THAT GAVEL BE IN HANDS OF SOMEONE
DESIROUS OF HOLDING MEETING TO STRICTLY TRADE UNION OR SOCIAL
WELFARE ISSUES, IN EFFECT RELEGATING MEETING TO THE EXTENT
POSSIBLE TO STATUS OF WORKERS CAUCUS OF THOSE ATTENDING
ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING.

5. SWEDISH DELEGATION FOR JANUARY 19 CONFERENCE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)
GUNNAR NILSSON, PRESIDENT
LARS WESTERBERG, VICE PRESIDENT
RUNE MOLIN, GENERAL SECRETARY
THORBJORN CARLSSON, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
BJORN PETTERSSON, ADVISOR ON MIGRANT LABOR QUESTIONS
HAKAN WALANDER, ADVISOR ON SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS
ARNE GEIJER, RETIRED LO PRESIDENT
BERT LUNDIN, PRESIDENT OF SWEDISH METALWORKERS

(B) SWEDISH CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES (TCO)
LENNART BODSTROM, PRESIDENT
ARNE NILSTEIN, TCO VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL DIRECTOR
SALARIED EMPLOYEES IN INDUSTRY (SIF)
SVEN FICKSTEDT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

6. CARLSSON, PETTERSSON, WALANDER AND FOCKSTEDT WILL BE
PRESENT THROUGH FULL TWO-WEEK ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE. ALL
FOUR SPEAK ENGLISH AND ARE APPROACHABLE. CARLSSON, FORMER
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SWEDISH LABOR ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON AND FOCKSTEDT BOTH
OLD GENEVA HANDS AND WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY.
WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCESSIBLE FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS DURING
COURSE OF CONFERENCE. LENGTH OF STAY OF OTHERS MORE OR
LESS SHORT. OF THOSE ONLY OLD FOX GEIJER, BODSTROM AND
NILSTEIN ENGLISH SPEAKING.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE WELL-KNOWN AND DEEP SEATED
RESERVATIONS, SWEDES BELIEVE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
MEETING IS IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. POLITICAL DETENTE
FORCING TRADE UNIONS INTO INCREASED INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS.
IT IS A CASE OF EITHER BEING PULLED ALONG WILLY-NILLY OR OF
TRYING TO ORGANIZE WITH DEFINED OBJECTIVES WHAT IS TAKING
PLACE ANYWAY. THE JANUARY 19 MEETING IS SEEN AS THE
PROVING GROUND FOR THIS THESIS.

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